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MAR.
NO. 30

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HOUSE of SECRETS

"CREATURE CITY!"



MARK! THE TOWN IS COMPLETELY DESERTED! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ALL THE PEOPLE?



GROCERIES

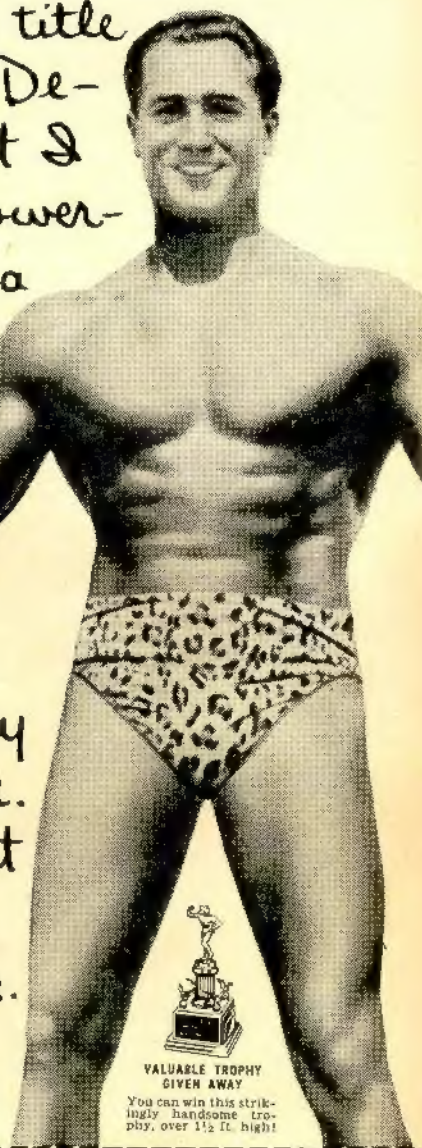


A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY

Dear Friend—

My name is Charles Atlas. I can't promise that you'll win the title of "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" as I did, But I do believe I can make a powerful He-Man out of you—in a very short time. I have turned thousands of weaklings into human dynamos of strength and energy. My big free book will tell you how my secret of Dynamic Tension may be able to do such a job for you. Let me send you a copy without a bit of cost or obligation on your part. Just mail the coupon.

Charles Atlas



VALUABLE TROPHY
GIVEN AWAY

You can win this strikingly handsome trophy, over 1½ ft. high!

**WHERE SHALL I SEND YOUR
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MAIL the coupon now for your FREE copy of my valuable 32-page book. Also check the kind of body you want right in the coupon. My book tells how you can get it fast. See how I can give you "Stand-Out" muscles where you want them; add inches to your chest and shoulders; make your legs and arms bulge with power. Read how "Dynamic Tension" can make you a new man—confident, popular, successful. See pages of actual photos of men who have become "Atlas Champions" my way. Read the answers to vital questions about your health... your personality... your future—WHAT I can do for you and HOW I do it. Rush the coupon to me personally:

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DEEP IN THE CHASM COUNTRY BELOW THE UNEXPLORED MOUNTAINS OF MIST DWELL THE PEOPLE OF THE STORM AND THE PEOPLE OF THE SUN. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ESCAPED CONVICT AND HIS FORMER CAPTOR BLUNDER INTO THIS INCREDIBLE, UNKNOWN LAND IS THE STARTLING TALE OF...

the DUEL of the SUPER POWERS



I MAY BE KILLED IN THE ATTEMPT, BUT I'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO BRING CHUCK WINGART BACK TO JUSTICE-- EVEN IF HIS WEIRD POWERS ARE GREATER THAN MINE!

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HOMeward BOUND WITH AN ESCAPED CONVICT, DETECTIVE JIM PEARCE SHOOTS A GLANCE AT HIS CAPTIVE...

CHUCK WINGART'S SLIPPERY AS AN EEL... BUT I'M GOING TO HANG ONTO HIM NO MATTER WHAT!

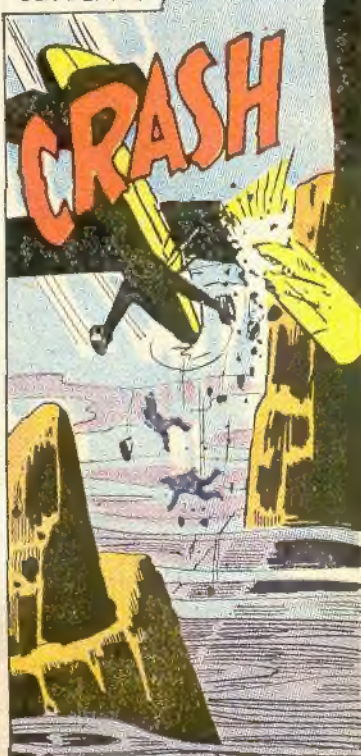


HIGHER AND HIGHER CLIMBS THE LITTLE TWO-SEATER TO AVOID AN ISOLATED MOUNTAIN RANGE...



CAN'T SEE A YARD AHEAD! HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!

SUDDENLY...



DOWN... DOWN A STRANGE, FOG-ENVELOPED CHASM PLUMMETS JIM...



...UNTIL, AMAZINGLY, HE STOPS ABRUPTLY IN MID-AIR!



THAT STRANGE BEING! HE DID IT! HE SAVED ME FROM DESTRUCTION!



AS THE WIND PRESSURE DIMINISHES, JIM SLOWLY FLOATS TO THE CAVERN FLOOR...

DO NOT FEAR, CREATURE OF THE OUTER WORLD! WE WILL HELP YOU RETURN TO YOUR HABITATION!

HE--HE'S TALKING TO ME BY TELEPATHY! THIS--THIS WHOLE THING IS INCREDIBLE!



LED INTO A DEEP LABYRINTH, JIM GETS ANOTHER SHOCKING SURPRISE...

YOU WILL MEET MANY DANGERS, STRANGE AND TERRIBLE MONSTERS AS YOU GO BACK! ENTER THAT CHAMBER AND WE WILL LEND YOU OUR POWERS--WHICH WILL HELP YOU COMBAT THEM!

IT MAY BE SOME KIND OF TRAP-- BUT WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?



WE ARE THE STORM PEOPLE... AND YOU ARE NOW RECEIVING THE POWERS OF THE STORM FOR AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN OUR VALLEY! LIGHTNING... HAIL... WIND... RAIN AND SNOW... YOU WILL BE MASTER OF ALL WHEN YOU SUMMON THEM!



AT A SIGNAL FROM HIS RESCUE, THE FLASHES CEASE AND JIM EMERGES...

YOU MAY MEET SOME BEINGS FROM THE TRIBE OF THE SUN AS YOU JOURNEY UPWARDS! THEY WILL NOT HARM YOU! BUT THE BEASTS MAY THREATEN YOU! USE YOUR POWERS AGAINST THEM!

S-SURE... AND THANKS FOR HELPING ME!



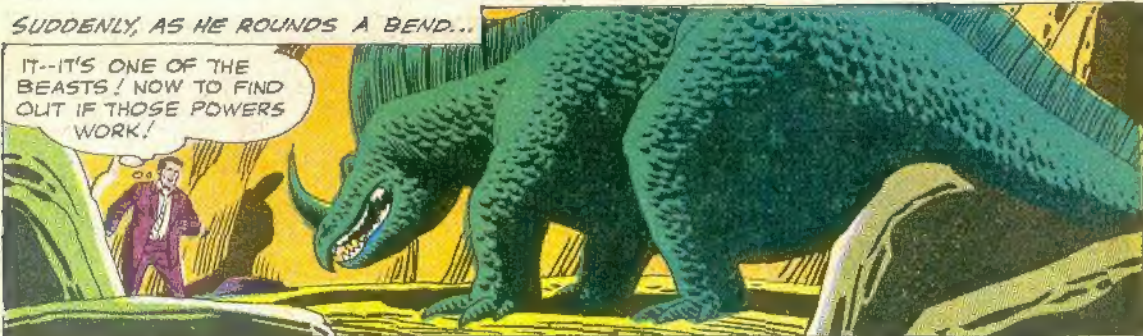
SOON...

THE ENTIRE CHASM FLOOR... RIDDLED AND HONEYCOMBED WITH UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAYS! HMM... IF CHUCK WINGART SURVIVED HIS FALL, I'LL HAVE A TOUGH TIME CATCHING HIM AGAIN!



SUDDENLY, AS HE ROUNDS A BEND...

IT--IT'S ONE OF THE BEASTS! NOW TO FIND OUT IF THOSE POWERS WORK!



IF I ENCASE IT IN ICE, IT'LL BE HARMLESS!



AND IN A MOMENT...

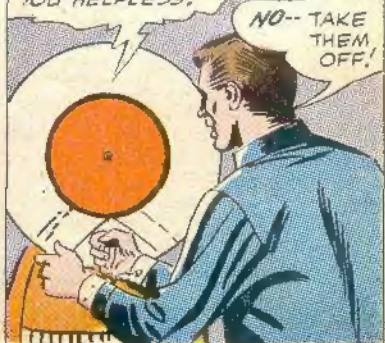
I--I DID IT! THE POWERS ARE GENUINE! IF CHUCK WINGART IS STILL ALIVE, HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE ONCE I CATCH HIM!



BUT BY AN IRONIC TWIST OF FATE, HIS QUARRY HAS BEEN BEFRIENDED BY THE SUN TRIBE...

WE WILL HELP YOU ESCAPE TO YOUR WORLD WITH OUR SUPER POWERS THAT WE CAN CONFER ON YOU! FIRST, DO YOU WISH TO CONTINUE WEARING THOSE STRANGE BRACELETS THAT RENDER YOU HELPLESS?

NO-- TAKE THEM OFF!



PLACED UNDER A STRANGE PRISMATIC LENS, CHUCK WINGART IS SUBJECTED TO A CONCENTRATION OF STRANGE BEAMS...

THE POWERS OF THE SUN--HEAT AND FIRE--ARE CAPTURED IN THAT LENS AND NOW TRANSFERRED TO YOU... BUT AS YOU GO BACK, USE THEM ONLY AGAINST THE BEASTS YOU MAY MEET! YOU HAVE ONLY TO THINK OF A POWER TO MAKE IT MATERIALIZE!



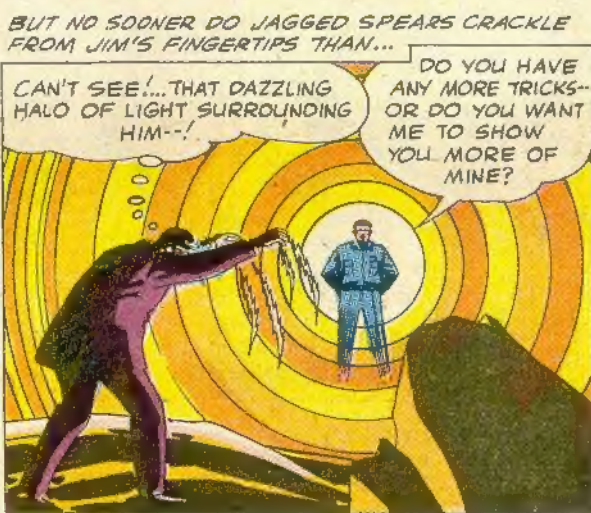
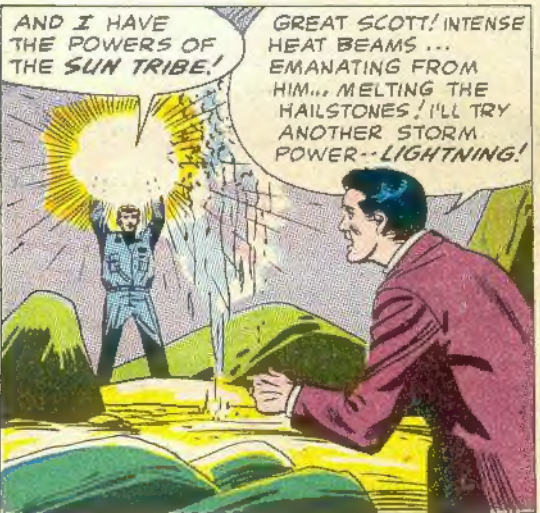
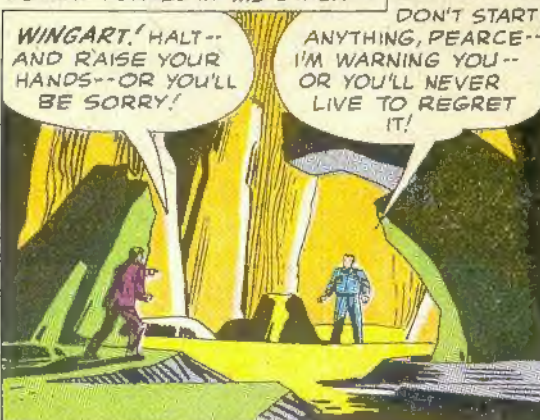
YEAH-- AND AGAINST JIM PEARCE, IF HE'S STILL ALIVE!

THEN, AS HE TREADS A PATH LEADING TO THE EXTERIOR, HE FACES HIS FIRST CHALLENGE...



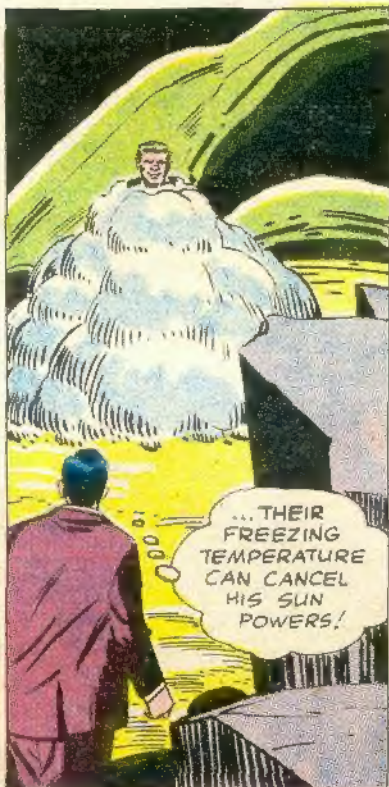
THAT UGLY BEAST! I SURE SCARED IT! WHAT CHANCE HAS PEARCE GOT IF HE EVER FINDS ME?

SHORTLY, THE TWO CLIMB THEIR TORTUOUS TRAILS UNTIL AN INEXORABLE FATE BRINGS THEM FACE TO FACE, EACH UNAWARE OF THE POTENT FORCES IN THE OTHER...



INSTANTLY, THE LAWMAN RELEASES A FURIOUS BUT FUTILE HURRICANE AS WINGART TAKES SHELTER...





BUT TO PEARCE'S DISMAY...



FRANTICALLY, JIM DIVES INTO ONE OF THE BURROWS, SEEKING DESPERATE REFUGE IN THE TWISTING PASSAGeways BENEATH THE GROUND, BUT...



MEANWHILE, AS WINGART SMUGLY WATCHES ABOVE...



HEARING SOUNDS BEHIND HIM, HE WHIRLS...



...AND UNLEASHES TWIN BOLTS OF DEVASTATING INTENSITY...



MANY WEARY HOURS LATER...



BUT AS A VAGUE SHAPE APPROACHES THROUGH THE SWIRLING FOG, HE RECOILS IN TERROR...



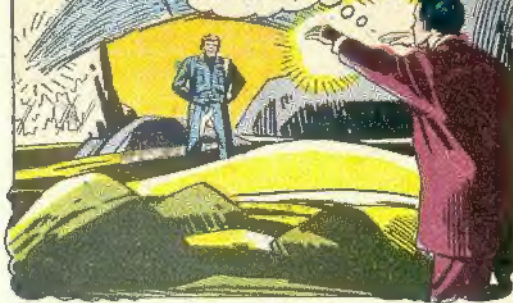
I--I KILLED YOU! Y-YOU MUST BE A GHOST!



"...I WASN'T EVEN AIMING AT YOU!"

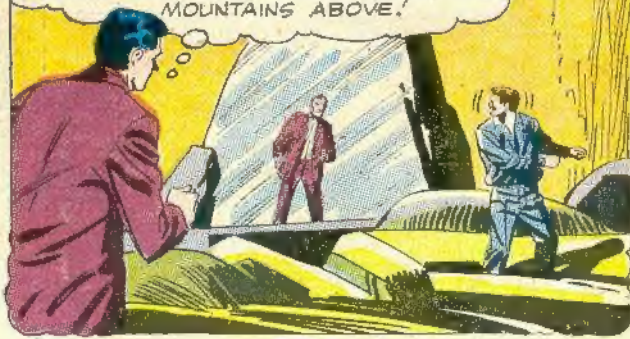
"HA, HA! YOU'RE SO SCARED, YOU MISSED..."

SO I DID--BUT DELIBERATELY! IT'S PART OF MY PLAN! I'VE COVERED THAT FLAT ROCK BEHIND HIM WITH A THICK GLAZE TO GIVE IT A MIRROR-LIKE SURFACE!



"THEN, WHEN THE SOUNDS CAUSED YOU TO WHIRL TO DESTROY ME..."

THAT SHEET OF SLEET I AIMED BEHIND HIM IS MAKING HIM TURN AROUND! HE'LL THINK MY REFLECTION IN THAT MIRROR-ROCK IS ME! AFTER HE THINKS HE DESTROYED ME, I CAN ESCAPE AND TRACK HIM TO THE MOUNTAINS ABOVE!



NOT LONG AFTER, JIM PEARCE RETURNS THE FUGITIVE...

HE WAS THE MOST ELUSIVE CUSTOMER WE HAD IN YEARS! HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO CATCH HIM?

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME, WARDEN, IF I TOLD YOU!



ON HIS VACATION, SOME MONTHS LATER, JIM RETURNS TO THE ISOLATED MOUNTAIN RANGE...

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE LAND OF THE STORM PEOPLE-- BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND! THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF FOG-COVERED GHASMS, AND NO WAY OF TELLING IN WHICH ONE THEY DWELL!



Your Passport to AMAZING ADVENTURES!

STRANGE ADVENTURES
Secret of the Flying Buzz Jaw!
10c
DC
ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

HOUSE OF MYSTERY
The Moon Monster!
10c
DC

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED
The Invasion of the Jewel Men!
10c
DC

TODAY'S MOST ELECTRIFYING MAGAZINES!

The Man Who Conquered TIME!

FOR AGES, MEN HAVE DREAMED OF RECAPTURING THE PAST--EXPLORING THE EXCITING, UNKNOWN EVENTS OF YESTERYEAR! AND NOW...

TRAVEL ALONG WITH HIM, ON ANOTHER DARING ADVENTURE, IN THE AMAZING SPHERE THAT SMASHES THE TIME BARRIER--INTO THE

AGE of SORCERY!

Rip Hunter TIME MASTER

MAKES THAT DREAM COME TRUE!

HOW CAN RIP HUNTER AND HIS COMPANIONS UNARMED RUN THE GAUNTLET OF THE VALLEY OF MONSTERS?

HOW CAN THEY BATTLE THE FANTASTIC POWERS OF THE SINISTER WIZARD OF RITANNIA?



READ THIS 3-PART ACTION-PACKED STORY...

"CAPTIVES of the MEDIEVAL SORCERER!"

IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF
SHOWCASE
ON SALE JAN. 26th



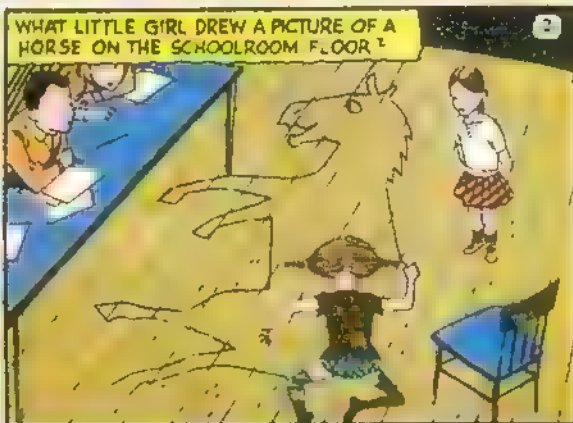
Buzzy's "FAMOUS BOOKS" Quiz

(ANSWERS IN LAST PANEL)

1. IN WHAT STORY DID A CABIN BOY BECOME CAPTAIN OF A LARGE SCHOONER AFTER A MUTINY?



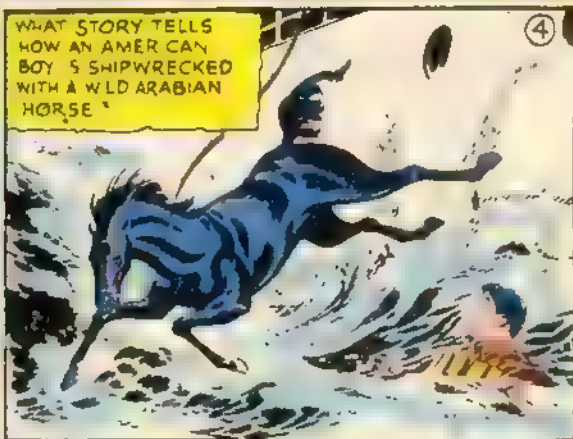
2. WHAT LITTLE GIRL DREW A PICTURE OF A HORSE ON THE SCHOOLROOM FLOOR?



3. IN WHAT BOOK DID TWO BOYS FIND A TREASURE BOX HIDDEN IN A CAVE?



4. WHAT STORY TELLS HOW AN AMERICAN BOY'S SHIPWRECKED WITH A WILD ARABIAN HORSE?

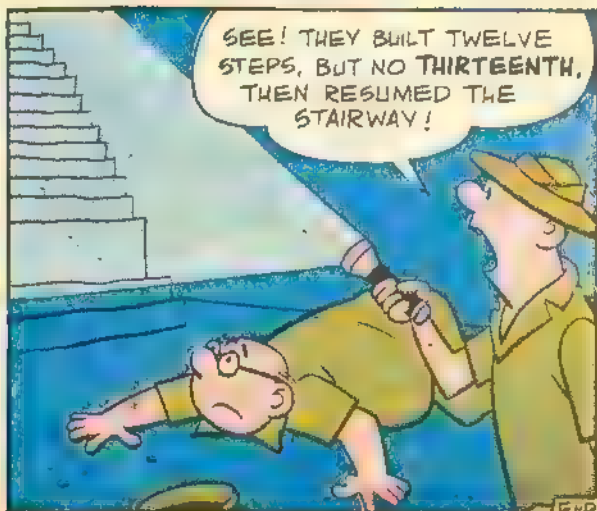
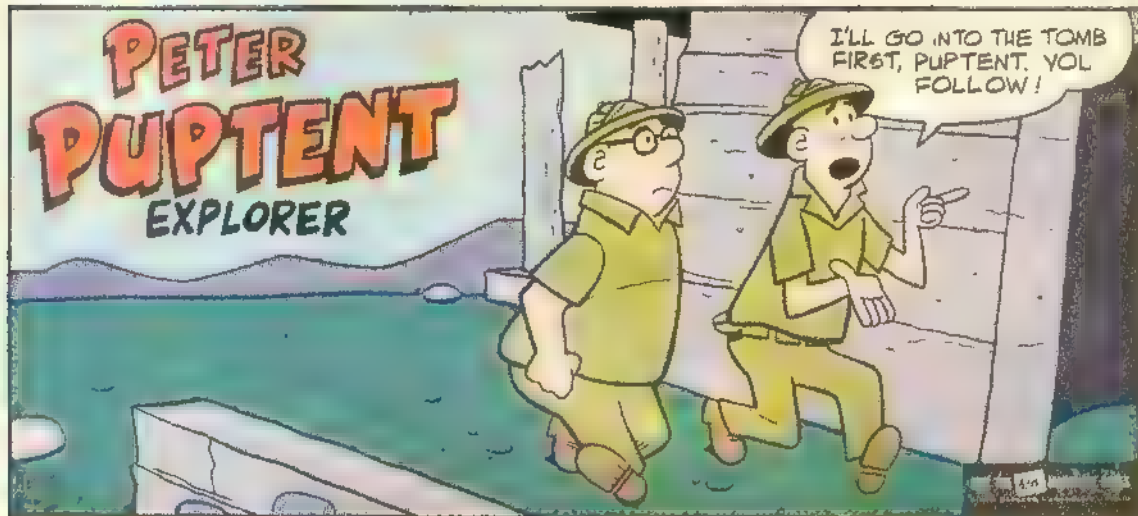


5. WHAT GIRL DID NOT MARRY THE BOY NEXT DOOR?



THE ANSWERS...
READ UPSIDE DOWN

1. "TREASURE ISLAND" by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
2. PIPPI in "PPPI LONGSTOCKING" by ASTRID LINDGREN
3. "THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER" by MARK TWAIN
4. "THE BLACK STALLION" by WALTER FARLEY
5. "SO MARCH IN 'LITTLE WOMEN'" by LOUISA MAY ALCOTT



WHERE ONCE WOVEN BRAIDS ROAMED THE PLAINS & HERDS OF BUFFALO HERDS, NOW GREAT OIL DERRICKS RISE, AND AUTOMOBILES ROAR ACROSS SUPER-HIGHWAYS. BUT THE SUPERNATURAL KNOWS NO BOUNDS OF TIME OR SPACE-- AND SO IT WAS THAT A 20TH CENTURY MAN WAS FORCED TO BATTLE ...

the SPIRITS in the SMOKE

BAROOM

SOMEONE STOLE
THE INDIAN PIPE AND
BROUGHT FORTH THE
FIRE SPIRIT!

LET'S CLEAR OUT
OF HERE! IN ANOTHER
MINUTE, THIS WHOLE
OIL FIELD WILL BE
AN INFERNO!



ACCOMPANIED BY HIS GUIDE JOE RED FEATHER, MARTIN HAWKS, A STUDENT OF INDIAN LIFE, INVESTIGATES AN ANCIENT PUEBLO...

THERE IT IS, MR. HAWKS.. ONE OF THE ANCIENT STONE CITIES BUILT BY MY PEOPLE!

FINE, JOE... NOW LET'S SEE WHAT A SHOVEL CAN TELL US ABOUT THE PAST!

HOURS OF SEARCHING BRING FORTH A VALUABLE FIND...

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT PIPE, MR. HAWKS?

SEE FOR YOURSELF, JOE... IT'S A PERFECT REPLICA OF A PIPE DESCRIBED IN ONE OF YOUR TRIBE'S MOST FAMOUS LEGENDS!

"REMEMBER THE TALE ABOUT AN EVIL MEDICINE MAN NAMED MINONI, WHO RULED YOUR TRIBE WITH HIS MAGIC?"

ONE AMONG YOU PLANS TO DEFEY ME! THEREFORE, I CALL UPON THE SPIRITS WITHIN THE PIPE TO REVEAL HIM!

"THEN, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, THE SMOKE FIGURE SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A LIVING THING, AND.."

LOOK, THE EAGLE SPIRIT RISES FROM THE PIPE! MINONI'S POWER IS GREAT!

IT HAS CAPTURED CHIEF TIHUAKE!

SO BE IT! THE EAGLE SPIRIT HAS ACCUSED THE CHIEF OF DEFEYING ME, AND NOW HE MUST PAY WITH HIS LIFE!

"MINONI DEMANDED A PART OF ALL THE CORN HARVESTED--AND HE ENFORCED THIS DEMAND WITH A SECOND SPIRIT FROM THE PIPE..."

"IT IS USELESS TO FIGHT MINONI! THE FIRE SPIRIT DOES HIS BIDDING! RUN, MY CHILDREN, BEFORE YOU ALL PERISH!"



"THEN, ONE DAY, YOUNG TIHIAKI, SON OF THE FORMER CHIEF, COURAGEOUSLY CHALLENGED THE MEDICINE MAN..."

"I DO NOT FEAR YOU, MINONI... MY MAGIC WILL DEFEAT YOUR WIZARDRY! SEE? I RUB THIS SILVER-HEADED ARROW IN THE EARTH"

"WHAT CHILDISHNESS-- THIS TIHIAKI."



"MY SILVER ARROW COATED WITH EARTH WILL BRING THE EAGLE SPIRIT TO THE GROUND!"

TWANG

AND AS THE ARROW CLUTCHED

IT IS TRUE TIHIAKI'S MAGIC WORKED THE EAGLE SPIRIT IS DEAD



"THEN, DIPPING THE SILVER-HEADED ARROW IN WATER, TIHIAKI, BRAVELY OPPOSED THE FIRE SPIRIT!"

BAROOM

"LET THIS BE THE END OF THE EVIL CREATURES FROM THE PIPE."



"THE LEGEND SAYS THAT THE SPIRITS TURNED BACK TO SMOKE AND RETURNED TO THE PIPE-- B. T. MINONI WAS NOT FINISHED..."

I SHALL SECRETLY BURY THE PIPE WHERE MY SONS, OR THEIR SONS, WILL ONE DAY FIND IT! THEN, WITH TIHUAKI DEAD, THEY MAY SAFELY USE ITS POWERS TO RULE OUR TRIBE AGAIN!

AND THAT'S THE COMPLETE LEGEND! ONLY MINONI'S DESCENDANTS CAN CALL THE SPIRITS FROM THE PIPE...

AND ONLY TIHUAKI'S DESCENDANTS CAN DESTROY THEM! 'HA, HA,' THE PEOPLE IN TOWN WILL GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!

LATER, IN THE OIL-RICH TOWN OF WINDOGA...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOUR TRIBE LIVING IN MODERN LUXURY, JOE!

THE **BLACK GOLD** DID THAT FOR US, MR. HAWKS. IT MADE OUR PEOPLE WEALTHY!

SHORTLY, HAWKS HAS THE RELIC PLACED ON EXHIBIT IN HIS HOTEL.

IT IS GOOD THAT YOU LOCK AWAY THE PIPE-- FOR THE BLOOD OF MINONI FLOWS IN MANY OF US STILL!

I ONLY LOCKED IT UP TO PROTECT IT FROM SOUVENIR HUNTERS, OLD FELLOW! I DON'T PUT MUCH STOCK IN THAT LEGEND!

BUT THE FOLLOWING DAY...

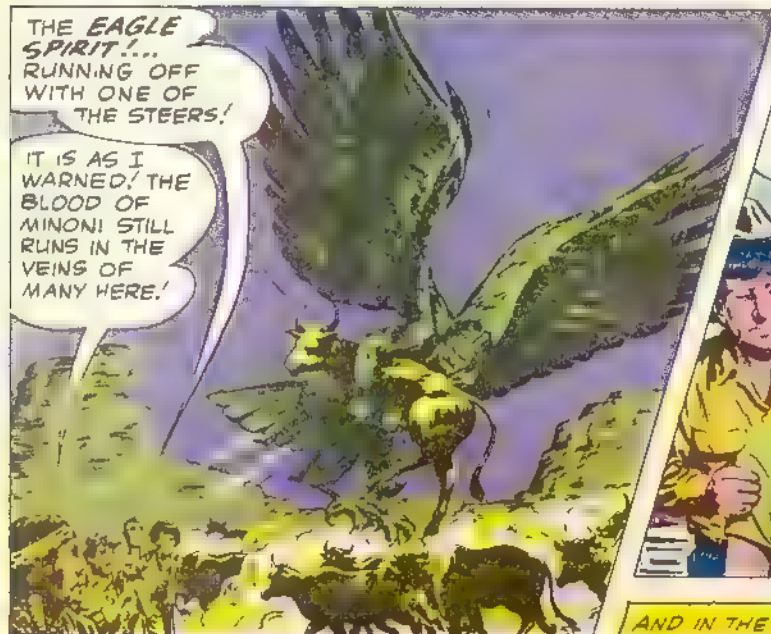
GONE! SOME PRANKSTER STOLE THE PIPE.

NO, MR. HAWKS!... ONE OF MINONI'S DESCENDANTS MUST HAVE STOLEN IT--FOR THE **EAGLE SPIRIT** HAS RETURNED! COME QUICKLY!

FRANTICALLY, THE YOUNG INDIAN DRIVES TO A NEARBY RANCH, WHERE...

LOOK!... SWOOPING DOWN FROM THE SKY TO ATTACK THE CATTLE...

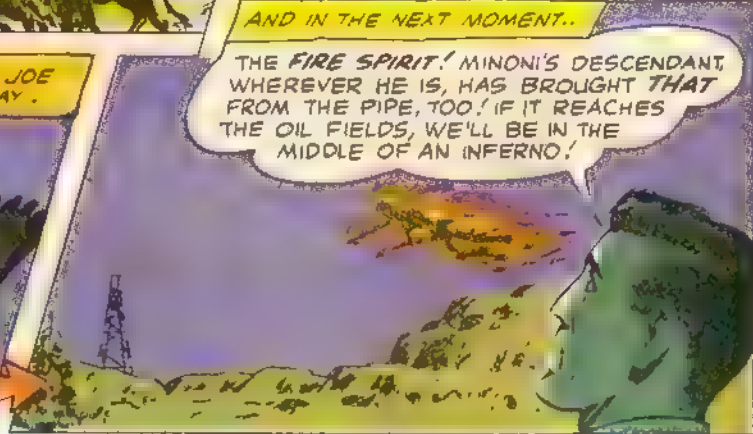
NO! IT CAN'T BE!



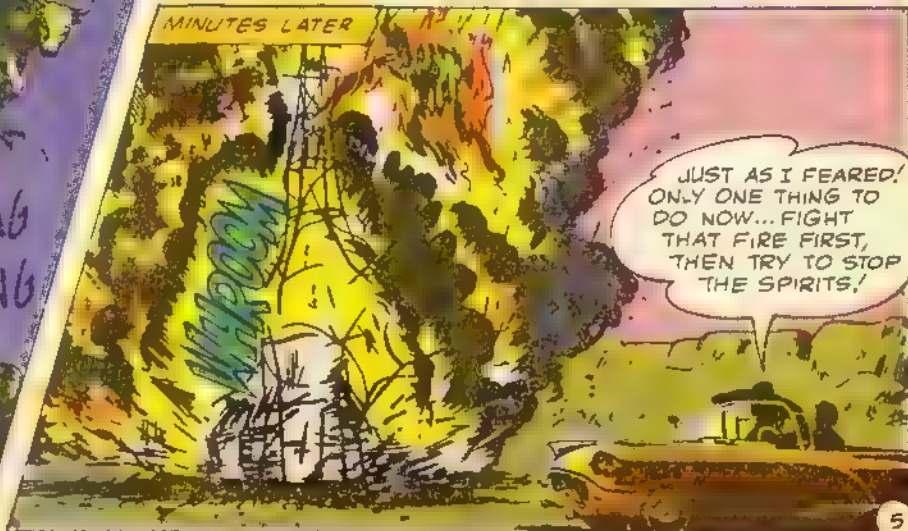
WITH A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE, JOE
RED FEATHER MAKES HIS PLAY.



AND IN THE NEXT MOMENT..



MINUTES LATER



FROM THE E. DEC BY ANBUKOS
AND ARMED WITH A FOAMITE
HAWK BATTLES THE
RAGING FIRE

TREMENDOUS
HEAT MUST GET
TO THE WELL
AND POUR THE
FOAM RIGHT
DOWN THE
THROAT OF
THE FIRE.

WHOOSH

MADE T THE FOAMITE
CUTS OFF THE OXYGEN
FROM THE WELL
SNUFFING OUT THE
BLAZE! BUT THE SPIRITS
FROM THE PIPE ARE
STILL ON THE LOOSE--
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY TO STOP THEM!

WITH THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL,
HAWK HURRIES TO A NEARBY
AIR FORCE BASE WITH AN
UNUSUAL REQUEST

BUT EVEN IF YOU DO
HAVE A PILOTS
LICENSE MR HAWKS
IF I PERMITTED YOU
A MISSION AS
WE'D AS THIS
WO BE N FOR
IT

SIR IF
THESE
CREATURES
AREN'T
DESTROYED
THAT
WHOLE
TRIBE IS
N FOR IT!

WELL, MAYBE I'M
BEING A CHUMP
BUT I'LL TRUST
YOUR JUDG-
MENT
HAWKS! GO
AHEAD TAKE
A PLANE
UP.
THANK
YOU SIR!

PRESENTLY HIGH OVER THE WESTERN PLATEAU

THIS IS IT... **EAGLE
SPIRIT DEAD AHEAD!**

HERE
GOES...

RAT-TAT-TAT

AND DOWN BELOW WHERE SPECTATORS GAPE.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

FANTASTIC! THE MACHINE-GUN BULLETS ARE KILLING THE EAGLE SPIRIT! BUT WHEN I FIRED ON IT IT WOULDN'T DIE! WHY?

THE EAGLE SPIRIT IS TURNING BACK TO SMOKE-- JUST THE WAY IT HAPPENED TWO CENTURIES AGO! NOW TO HUNT DOWN THE FIRE SPIRIT!

THERE IT IS... I CAN FEEL THE HEAT FROM HERE! HOPE I CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO PULL THIS OFF

AS GREAT FINGERS OF FLAME REACH OUT TO ENGULF THE PLANE

BAROOM

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

LATER, WITH THE PLANE LANDED...

YOU SEE HOW THE SMOKE FIGURES APPROACH US? THEY'RE RETURNING TO THE PIPE, THE PIPE THAT YOU STOLE JOE!

OKAY, IT'S TRUE! I WANTED TO SCARE THE OTHERS FROM THE OIL-RICH LANDS! BUT HOW DID YOU DESTROY THE SPIRITS?

GIVE ME THE PIPE, JOE! I USED THE ELEMENTS IN THE LEGEND--EARTH AND WATER! THE EARTH WAS THE NITRATES IN THE MACHINE-GUN BULLETS... THE WATER WAS IN THE GUNS WATER COOLER!

AND I GAVE THIS NAME TO MY PLANE WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO ME!

ONE QUESTION REMAINS... JOE RED FEATHER WAS A DESCENDANT OF MINONI AND THE PIPE WORKED FOR HIM-- BUT WHY DID THE LEGEND WORK FOR YOU?

SILVER ARROW

HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED THAT OUT YET, OLD MAN? I AM THE LAST OF TIHUAKI'S DESCENDANTS! HIS FAMILY MOVED NORTH FROM HERE LONG AGO! I RETURNED HUNTING A LEGEND-- AND NOW THE LEGEND IS AT AN END!

SNAP

THE END

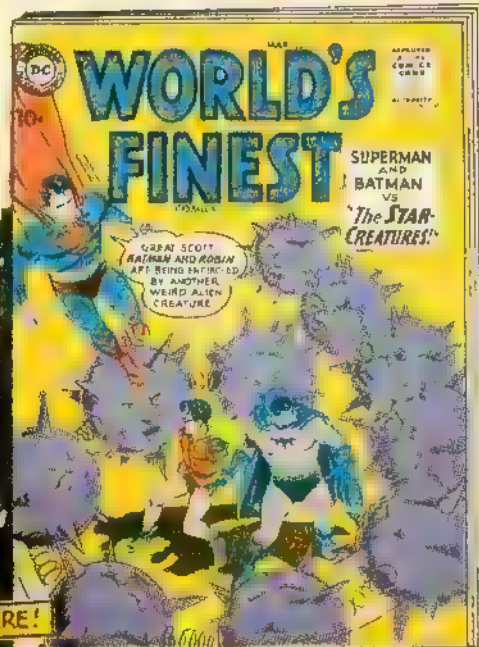
Your favorite heroes...

SUPERMAN
and **BATMAN**
and **ROBIN**

FACE THE ASTOUNDING CHALLENGE OF THE AMAZING

STAR CREATURES!

ON SALE EVERYWHERE!



THE FIERY FALCON

HENRY simply wouldn't listen to reason.

I told him that the Indian tribe considered the bird sacred—that to steal this bird was an invitation to disaster. But Henry would have no part of this superstitious nonsense, as he called it—and I could hardly blame him.

For this falcon, which perched in the center of the remote tribal village, was the most beautiful creature man had ever laid eyes on. Its feathers glistened like pure gold—so pure, in fact, that the thing literally seemed to give off a fiery glow. And stealing it would be such an easy task. No one guarded it, no bonds restrained it. All that was necessary was to steal up in the dead of night, and help ourselves to it. The Indians, you see, had no fear of thievery; they believed that the bird would return to them regardless.

So Henry convinced me. That night, we calmly made our way into the village with a cage. Within minutes, we were making off with our prize, dreaming of the fabulous fortune we could make by selling it to some zoo or circus. If only we had realized what we'd let ourselves in for!

First of all, the falcon opened its eyes and let out a shrill cry. A natural reaction, we assumed, at the realization that it had been caged. But gradually, there came a gathering in the moonlit sky. From every direction, hawks, owls, eagles—every bird we could possibly name, to be sure—came gliding in, then began hovering. Before long, they were blotting out every inch of sky—and the moon, our only source of light, was denied us.

"Henry," I stammered, "have you ever seen anything like it? Do you suppose the falcon . . . ?"

"Ridiculous!" he cut me short. "Whatever's drawing those birds here, it's just a coincidence."

And yet, that was only the beginning. Soon after, the stones started falling . . . not one or two, but a veritable storm of them. Where

were they coming from? We couldn't tell until our eyes grew more accustomed to the darkness. The birds! They were flying down, picking up the missiles with their beaks or claws, and raining them down upon us! It was all we could do to reach safety, under a tree, before the pelting knocked us senseless. And, strangely enough, not a single stone touched the cage in which we were carrying our falcon, which seemed to be perched so calmly, as if it had *expected* all these happenings.

"Now what do you think?" I shouted at Henry.

Though his voice quavered, he still denied that the prize we'd stolen had any connection with this. "Just move along beneath the trees," he whispered, and that's what we proceeded to do.

That's when the final blow came. The branches leaned down to block our path, to trip us up. It was as if the very trees themselves had acquired minds, which they were using to halt our flight. It was incredible—eerie—the way they seemed to sense our approach. And soon, we realized what had caused it.

The birds were flying down from the sky, clustering on the branches, until their very weight caused them to bend. They were the "mind" behind the scheme.

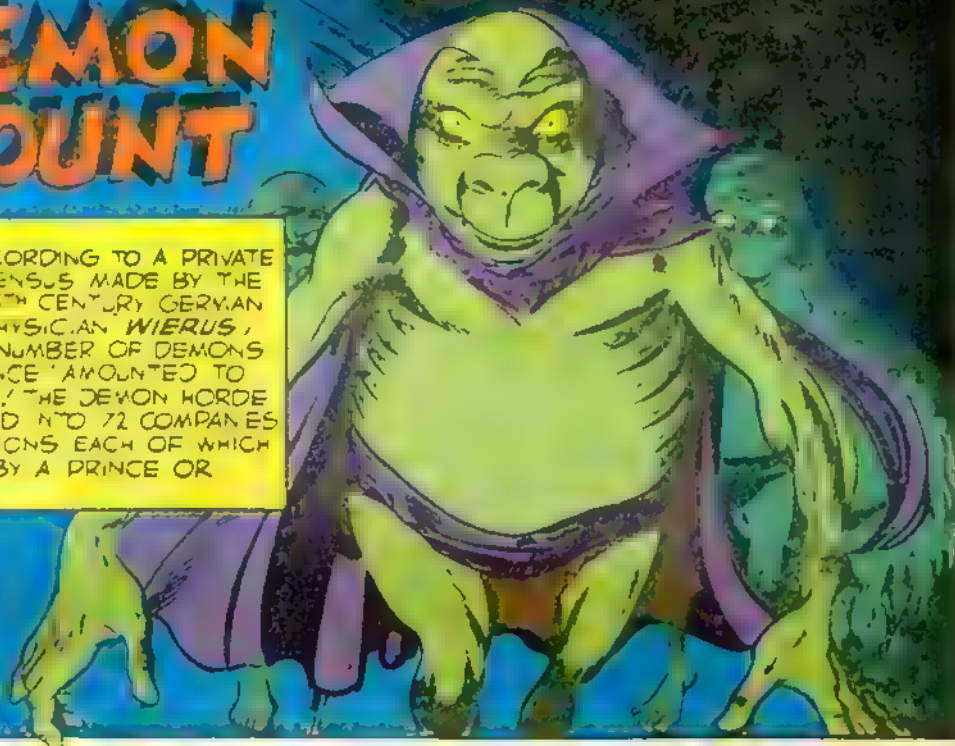
"Henry!" I pleaded. "For mercy's sake, release that falcon!"

This time, he needed no convincing. He opened the cage, and away flew our prize. Instantly, the sky began to clear, the stones ceased falling, the branches stopped bending. In another moment, all was calm again.

Those Indians had said something about their sacred falcon ruling the entire bird kingdom. Henry and I still like to think we're not superstitious men—and yet, what are we supposed to think, after our experience with the fiery falcon?

DEMON COUNT

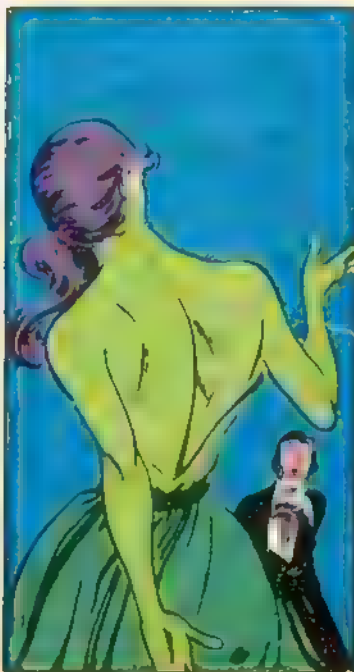
ACCORDING TO A PRIVATE CENSUS MADE BY THE 6TH CENTURY GERMAN PHYSICIAN WIERUS, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEMONS IN EXISTENCE AMOUNTED TO 7405,926. THE DEVON HORDE WAS DIVIDED INTO 72 COMPANIES OR BATTALIONS EACH OF WHICH WAS LED BY A PRINCE OR CAPTAIN.



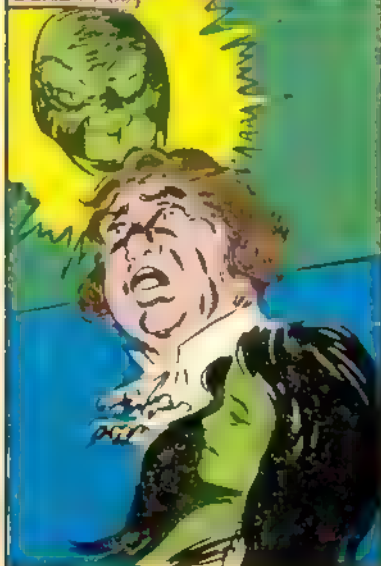
THE MALE CONTINGENT OF DEMONS WERE CALLED *INCUBI*, AND WERE THOUGHT TO CAUSE NIGHTMARES IN HUMANS.



DEMONS WHO ASSUMED THE SHAPES OF FEMALES WERE KNOWN AS *SUCCUBI*...



SINCE DEMONS HAD THE POWER OF TAKING ON ANY SHAPE THEY PLEASED, THEY SOMETIMES PREFERRED TO MAKE THEMSELVES HIDEOUS TO MORTAL EYES, BUT ON OTHER OCCASIONS DAZZLED HUMANS WITH THEIR SUPREME BEAUTY...





WHAT BECAME OF THE CITY'S INHABITANTS-- AND WHO WERE THE STRANGE BEINGS WHO HAD TAKEN THEIR PLACE? THESE WERE BUT TWO OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH MARK MERLIN, FAMED SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, HAD TO SOLVE, IF HE HOPED TO EMERGE ALIVE FROM...

the CREATURE CITY





HOUSE OF SECRETS



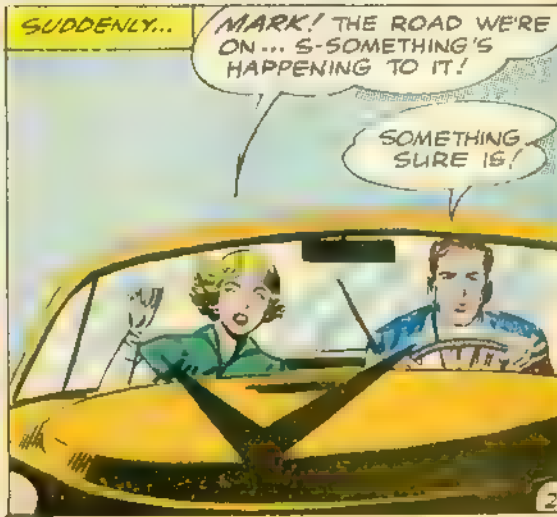
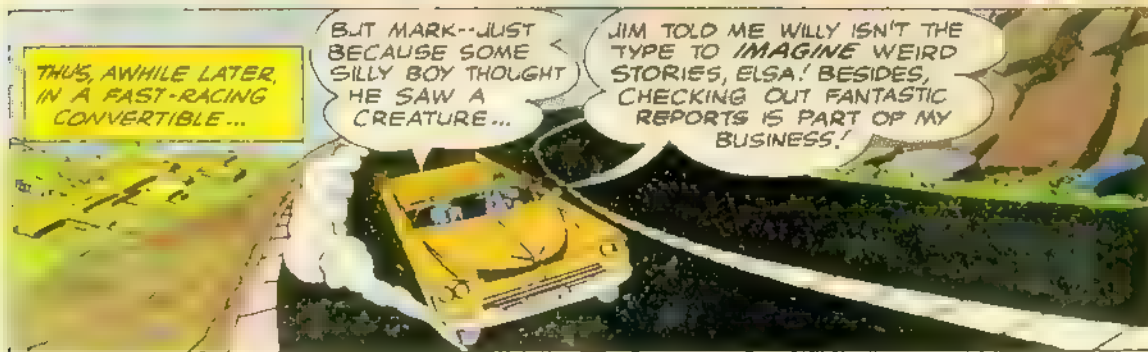
ONE MORNING, AS A HAM RADIO OPERATOR CHATS WITH A FRIEND IN A NEARBY TOWN...

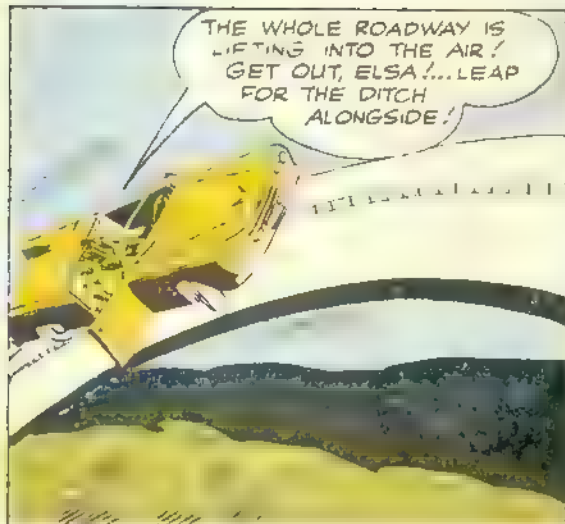


WHEN WILLY SWITCHES IN...

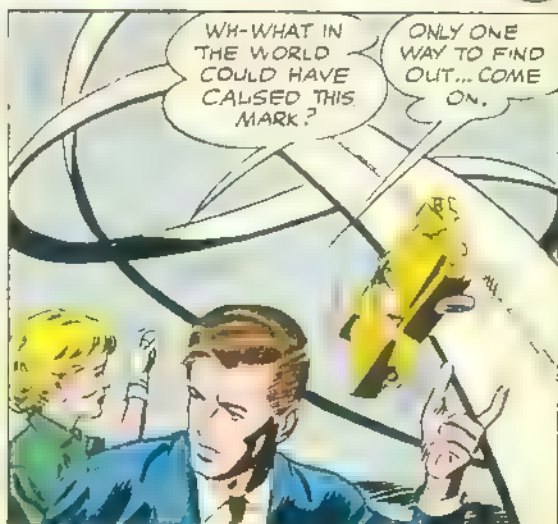


IMMEDIATELY, THE FIRST BOY REPORTS THE STRANGE EVENT TO HIS FATHER





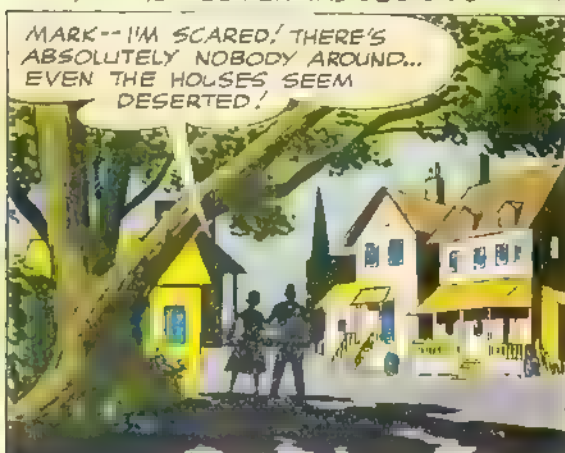
THE WHOLE ROADWAY IS
LIFTING INTO THE AIR!
GET OUT, ELSA!...LEAP
FOR THE DITCH
ALONGSIDE!



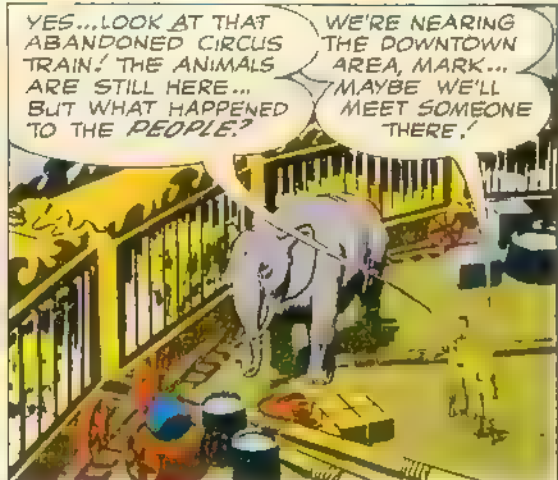
WH-WHAT IN
THE WORLD
COULD HAVE
CAUSED THIS
MARK?

ONLY ONE
WAY TO FIND
OUT... COME
ON.

SOON, IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR OF TOWN

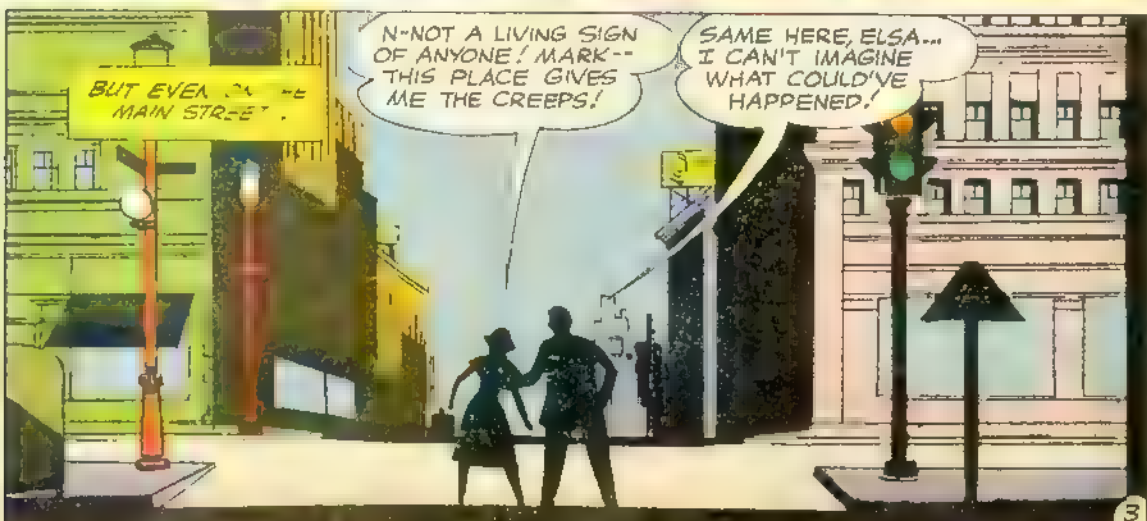


MARK--I'M SCARED! THERE'S
ABSOLUTELY NOBODY AROUND...
EVEN THE HOUSES SEEM
DESERTED!



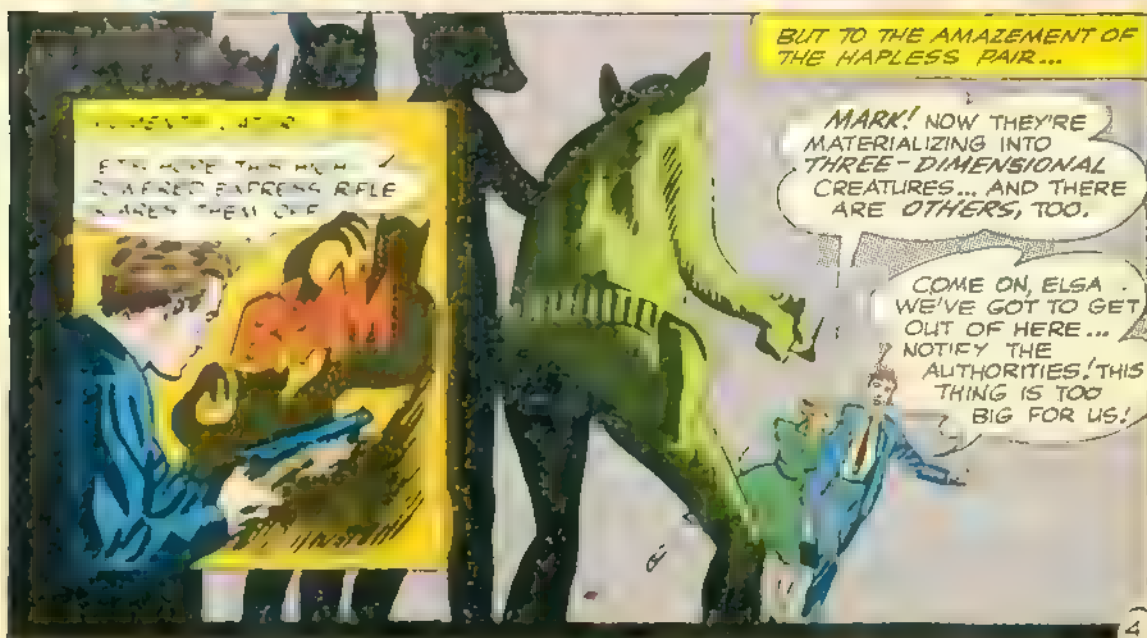
YES...LOOK AT THAT
ABANDONED CIRCUS
TRAIN! THE ANIMALS
ARE STILL HERE...
BUT WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE PEOPLE?

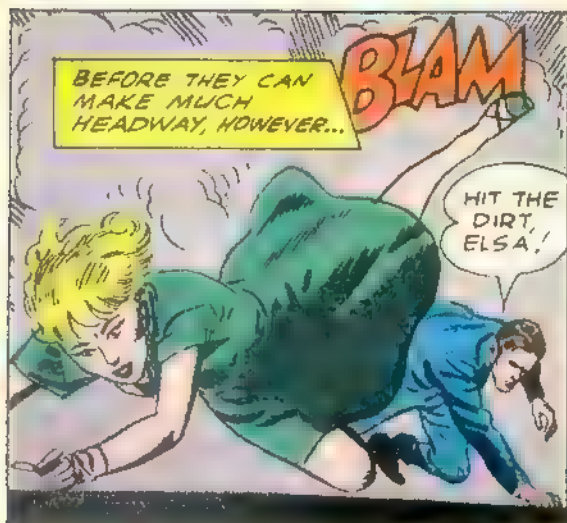
WE'RE NEARING
THE DOWNTOWN
AREA, MARK...
MAYBE WE'LL
MEET SOMEONE
THERE!



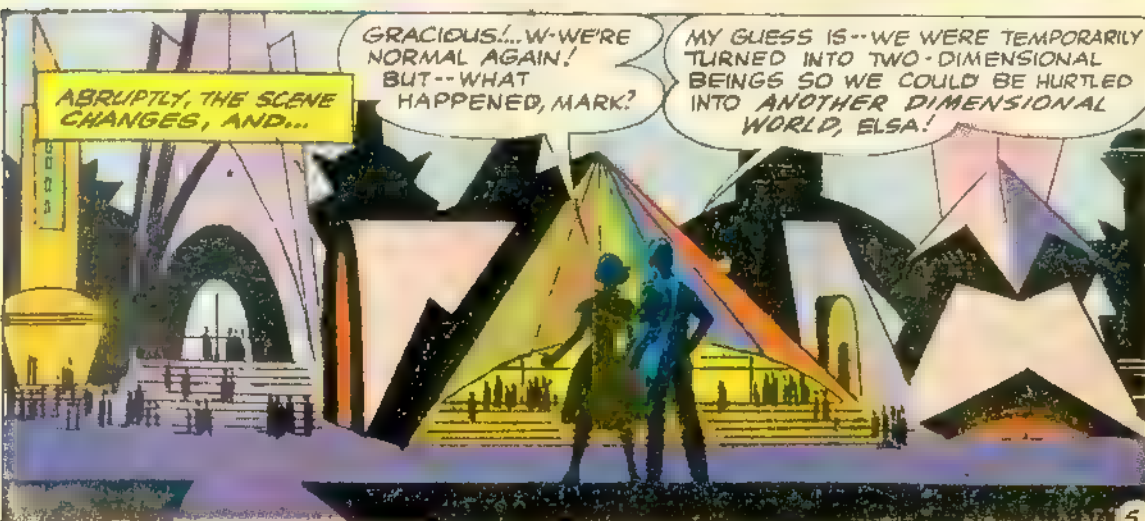
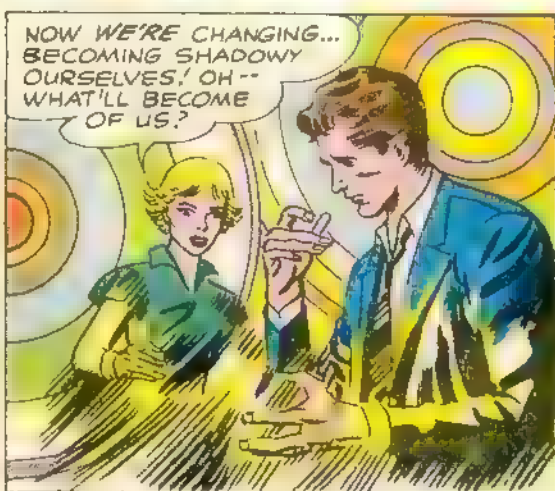
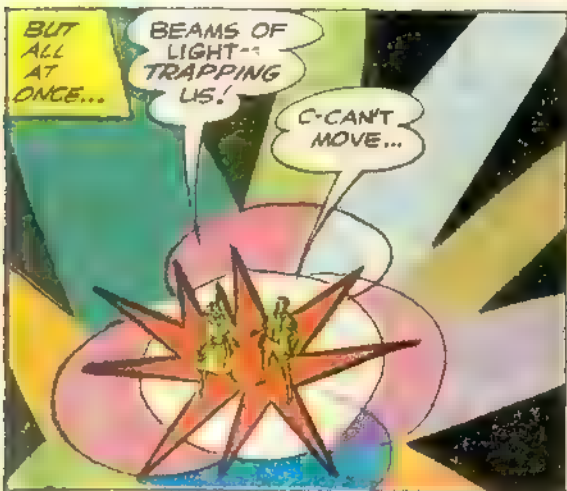
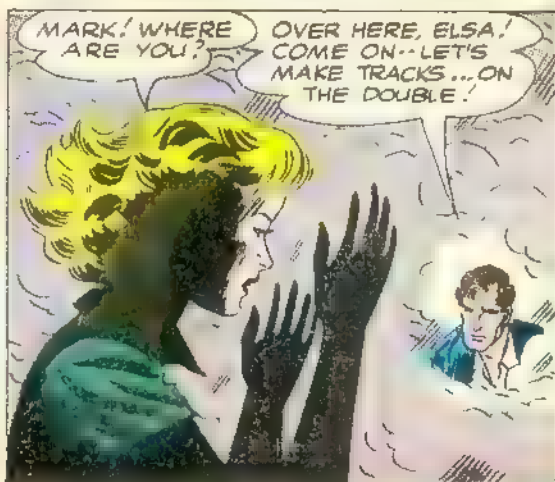
N-NOT A LIVING SIGN
OF ANYONE! MARK--
THIS PLACE GIVES
ME THE CREEPS!

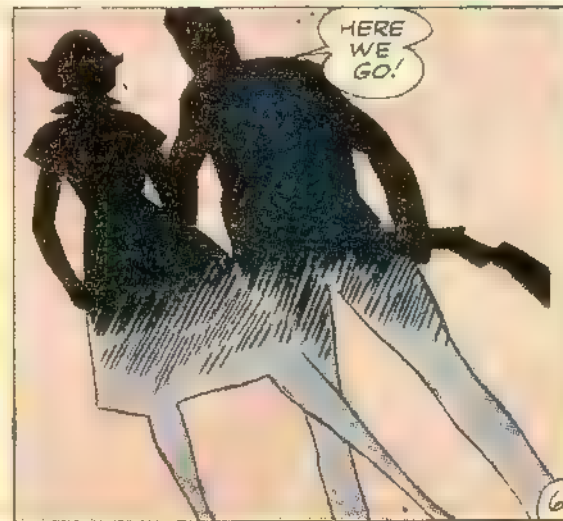
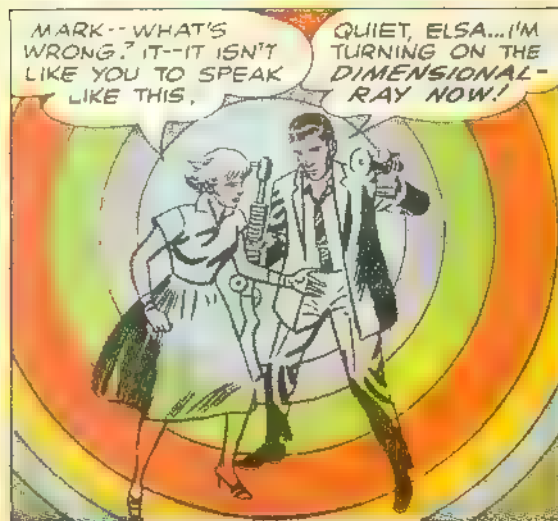
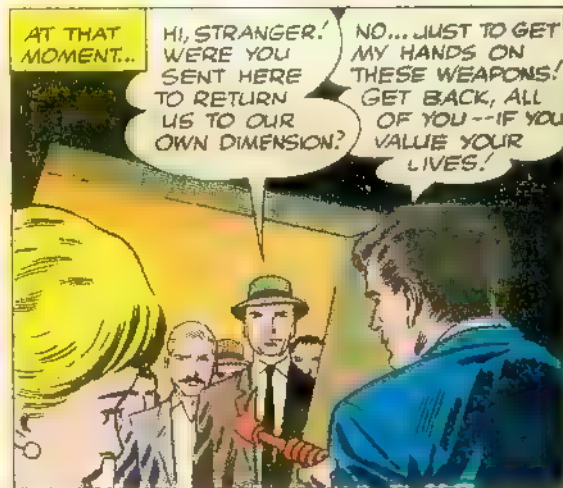
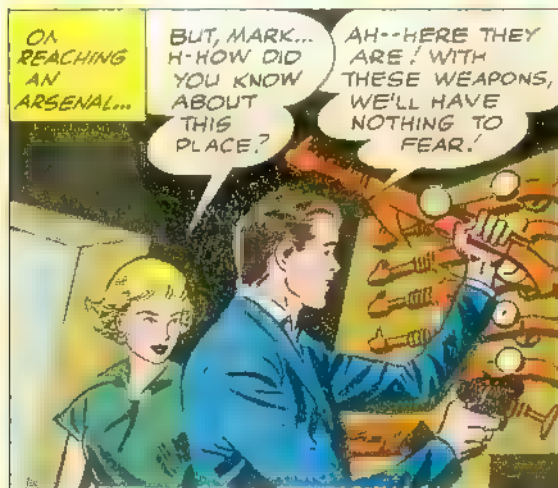
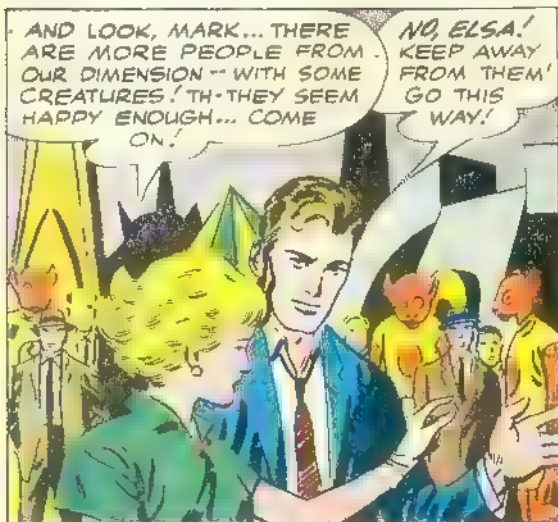
SAME HERE, ELSA...
I CAN'T IMAGINE
WHAT COULD'VE
HAPPENED!





WHEN THE SMOKE STARTS TO CLEAR...





WHEN THEY AGAIN MATERIALIZE...

MARK--ONCE AND FOR ALL, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

"HA, HA, GLADLY! NO HARM IN YOUR KNOWING NOW! WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TURN THE REVERSE SWITCH ON THIS ATOMIC ALTERATION LENS!"



WHY. YOU'RE TURNING INTO A CREATURE!

NO, YOU LITTLE FOOL-- I AM RETURNING TO MY ORIGINAL FORM!



"YOU SEE, WHEN MY PURSUERS EXPLODED A WARNING SHELL, TO FRIGHTEN YOU AND YOUR COMPANION AWAY, I SAW MY CHANCE..."



WHAT LUCK!... THE BLAST KNOCKED HIM OUT. BY FOCUSING MY LENS ON HIM, I CAN BORROW HIS APPEARANCE!



NOW TO JOIN THE GIRL HE CALLED ELSA--AND USE HER TO COMPLETE MY PLAN!



BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT ARE OUR PEOPLE DOING IN YOUR DIMENSION--AND YOUR PEOPLE IN OURS?

"HA, HA" THAT, TOO, IS EASILY EXPLAINED!



"WHEN AUTHORITIES LEARNED THAT I HAD ESCAPED INTO YOUR DIMENSION WITH A FEW POWERFUL WEAPONS, THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE, AND..."



WE CANNOT OPEN FIRE ON THE CRIMINAL W'DOR, LEST WE HARM INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THIS DIMENSION!

TRUE...WE MUST REMOVE ALL OF THE INHABITANTS FOR SAFE-KEEPING--AND PREVENT OTHERS FROM ENTERING THE CITY!





SOME OF YOU WILL RETURN TO OUR DIMENSION--AND EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE PEOPLE WE SEND IN FROM THIS DIMENSION!

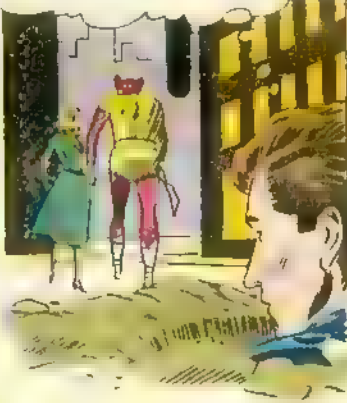
BUT HURRY... WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO.



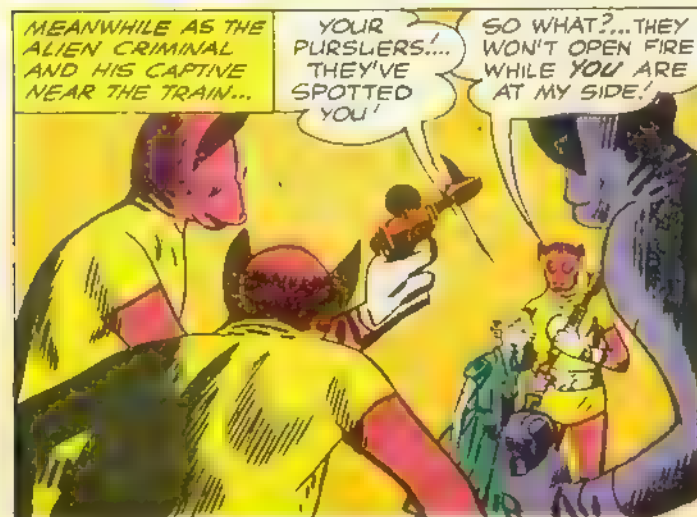
NOW, WITH ONLY A COUPLE OF POWERFUL WEAPONS I TOOK FROM THE ARSENAL, I NEEDN'T EVEN BURDEN MYSELF WITH ALL THESE OTHERS! WHAT'S MORE, I HAVE YOU--AS MY HOSTAGE!

BUT AS THE PAIR MOVES OFF, ANOTHER FIGURE APPEARS...

LUCKY I HAD A GOOD HIDING PLACE...I HEARD EVERYTHING! STILL, HOW CAN I STOP HIM?



HMM... THAT STRANDED CIRCUS TRAIN GIVES ME AN IDEA--IF I CAN DETOUR TO IT FAST ENOUGH!



MEANWHILE AS THE ALIEN CRIMINAL AND HIS CAPTIVE NEAR THE TRAIN...

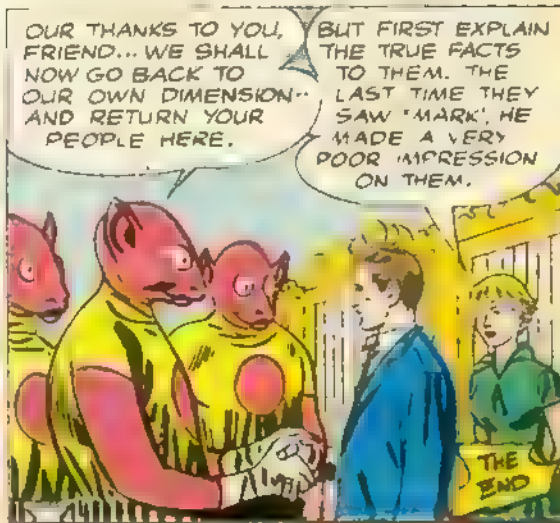
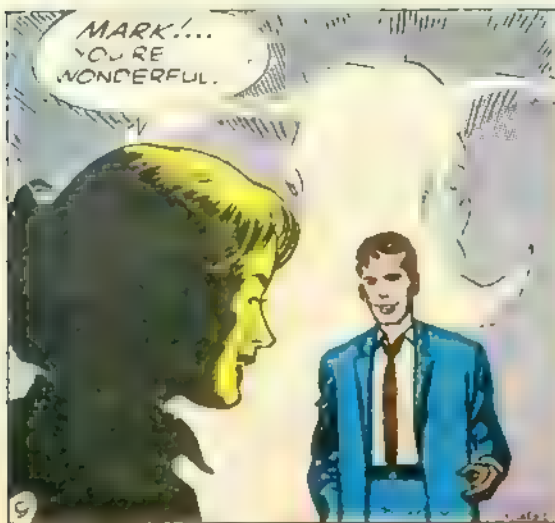
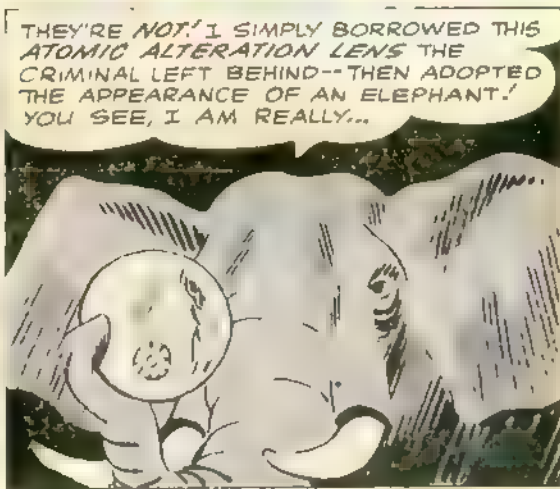
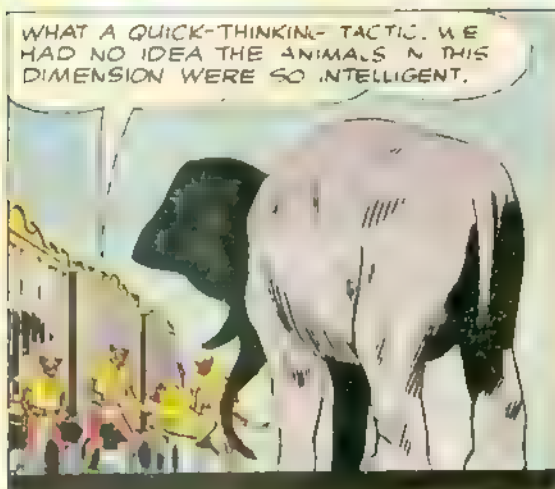
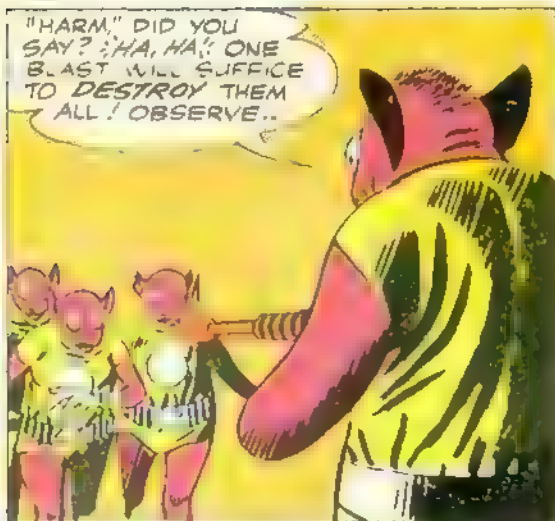
YOUR PURSUERS!... THEY'VE SPOTTED YOU!

SO WHAT?...THEY WON'T OPEN FIRE WHILE YOU ARE AT MY SIDE!



BUT I HAVE NO SUCH COMPUNCTION!

NO PLEASE. DON'T HARM THEM!



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REAL COINS FROM
NATIONS OF THE
WORLD,
SUCH AS ...**



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Countries shown in pictures are (check 6 only):

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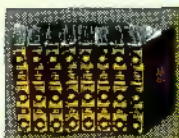
Name..... Age.....
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Town..... Zone..... State.....

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Look over
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above
and name
the 6 nations
correctly on
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Then mail
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Paste coupon on post card or mail in envelope today!



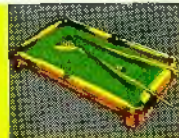
8-Vol. Encyclopedia



Movie Projector



Complete Fishing Outfit



Pool Table Set



Big-3 Hunting Set



Hot Rod Racer



Badminton Sets



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Wrist Watches



4 Daisy Air Rifles



Girls Travel Case



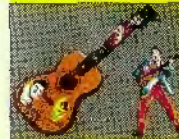
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Major League Glove



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